JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
DELAWARE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITY
REVIEWED BY FSchmelzer DATE 4/10/87
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S) June
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

21, 1980

Ack Fm NSC
CONGRESSIONAL
LIAISON

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cc: Tate

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I understand that the government of Saudi Arabia has requested that the U.S. sell them sophisticated military aircraft and related weapons systems. Among these items purportedly being requested are enhancements for the fleet of F-15s sold to Saudi Arabia in 1978, including conformal fuel tanks, multiple ejection racks and KC-135 aerial refueling tankers.

As you may remember, I introduced the Senate Resolution of Disapproval to the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia two years ago primarily on the grounds that these aircraft posed a significant threat to the security of Israel. Many of my colleagues' misgivings, at that time, were assuaged by the May 9, 1978 letter from the Secretary of Defense to the Foreign Relations Committee assuring them that:

> Saudi Arabia has not requested nor do we intend to sell any other systems or armaments that would increase the range or enhance the ground attack capability of the F-15.

Thus assured, the Senate did not disapprove the sale. It is my understanding, however, that the military equipment for the F-15 sought by the Saudis will do precisely what Secretary Brown assured the Senate that it would not.

While I am mindful of the need to maintain flexibility in our relations with foreign governments, the sale of this equipment for the F-15 would, in my view, be inconsistent with the Administration's position on United States security

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requirements in the Middle East. In view of your personal commitment to the stability of the region, I ask that you reaffirm the assurances given to the Senate by your Administration two years ago that the offensive capability of the F-15 would not be enhanced.

Sincerely,

JRB

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator